



US 20070182718A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Schoener et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2007/0182718 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 9, 2007**(54) **OPERATOR CONTROL DEVICE****Publication Classification**(76) Inventors: **Hans-Peter Schoener**, Ammertouch
(DE); **Michael Schreiner**, Muehlheim
(DE)(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06F 3/041 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** **345/173**

Correspondence Address:

KENYON & KENYON LLP
ONE BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004 (US)(57) **ABSTRACT**(21) Appl. No.: **10/558,809**(22) PCT Filed: **May 12, 2004**(86) PCT No.: **PCT/EP04/05059**

§ 371(c)(1),

(2), (4) Date: **Dec. 11, 2006**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

May 30, 2003 (DE)..... 103 24 579.0

An operator control device for controlling systems in a motor vehicle by inputs by a user includes a touch-sensitive operator control panel on which it is possible to represent two surface shapes which may be changed into one another alternately, with the first surface shape being structured so as to be capable of being sensed in a tactile fashion so that it may be used to select zones on the operator control panel in order to select menu items. The individual selectable zones may be configured differently in shape, extent and their position on the operator control panel, and the second surface shape is smoothed in comparison with the first shape so that hand-written and graphic inputs are possible with it.

